Homeroom (TV series)

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Homeroom is an American sitcom that aired on ABC from September 16, 1989 to December 17, 1989. The series stars stand-up comedian Darryl Sivad as a fourth grade teacher at an inner-city school. ABC executives created the show as a vehicle for Sivad after seeing his routine on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*.[1]

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Homeroom	
Genre	Sitcom
Created by	Andrew Scheinman Gary Gilbert
Directed by	Linda Day Arlando Smith
Starring	Darryl Sivad Penny Johnson Bill Cobbs
Opening theme	"Love Each Other (The Solution)" performed by the Dimples
Country of origin	United States
Original language	English
No. of seasons	1
No. of episodes	13 (3 unaired) (list of episodes)
Production	
Executive producer	Topper Carew
Camera setup	Multi-camera
Running time	30 minutes
Production companies	Giggling Goose Productions Castle Rock Entertainment
Distributor	Warner Bros. Television Distribution
Release	
Original network	ABC
Audio format	Stereo
Original release	September 16 – December 17, 1989

Premise [edit]

The series follows Darryl Harper (Sivad), a highly paid advertising copywriter who decides to quit his job to teach underprivileged kids at P.S. 391, an inner city school in New York City. Darryl's wife Virginia (Penny Johnson) supports his choice but Virginia's father, Phil Drexler (Bill Cobbs) does not. Phil frequently voices his disapproval to Darryl which he feels is his right as Darryl and Virginia live rent-free in the brownstone Phil owns and also lives in.[2]

Cast [edit]

- Darryl Sivad as Darryl Harper
- Penny Johnson as Virginia "Vicki" Harper
- Bill Cobbs as Phil Drexler
- Trent Cameron as Sam
- Jahary Bennett as Devon
- Billy Dee Willis as Donald

Reception and cancellation [edit]

Homeroom premiered on ABC on September 16, 1989 to mixed reviews.[3] The series was scheduled on Sunday nights opposite CBS's hit series *Murder, She Wrote* and NBC's *My Two Dads*. As a result, *Homeroom* struggled in the ratings and faced cancellation.[4] In an effort to save the series, the cast and producers asked viewers to start a letter writing campaign. Executive producer Topper Carew went on a cross-country promotional tour to schools where he showed the series to students and teachers and held a Q&A session afterwards.[5] Carew also mailed letters and contacted African-American organizations and activists asking them to watch the show and to talk about it.[4] Despite the cast and producers' efforts, ABC canceled the series in December 1989.[6] Three of the thirteen episodes produced were never aired.

Episodes [edit]

No.	Title	Directed by	Written by	Original air date
1	"Pilot"	Art Wolff	Gary Gilbert & Andrew Scheinman	September 16, 1989
The kids cheat at a big math test.				
2	"The Lookin' for West Coast Travelin' 'Long the Missouri River Blues"	Linda Day	David X. Cohen & Roger S. H. Schulman	September 24, 1989
Donald takes piano lessons. Anthony gets dumped by his girlfriend.				
3	"Food for Thought"	Arlando Smith	Marc Cherry & Jamie Wooten	October 1, 1989
The manager for the cafeteria gets tired of Donald's misbehavior.				
4	"It's Not Easy Bein' Green"	Linda Day	Marc Cherry & Jamie Wooten	October 8, 1989
A tree is left in Devon's care, but the tree dies because of lack of water. Virginia tries to help Phil with his high blood pressure.				
5	"Dirty Laundry"	Linda Day	Trish Soodik	October 22, 1989
Lisa and Devon run for class president.				
6	"Who Is Captain Fitness?"	Linda Day	Marc Cherry & Jamie Wooten	November 5, 1989
Sam's hero, Captain Fitness, dies during a classroom workout.				
7	"Dinner at Fiveish"	Linda Day	Trish Soodik	November 19, 1989
Phil goes out with a colleague of Darryl.				
8	"The Commercial Break"	TBA	David Cohen & Roger S.H. Schulman	December 3, 1989
Anthony directs his first commercial. The kids find out that Darryl was once a practical joker.				
9	"Mr. Drexler's Neighborhood"	Linda Day	Paul B. Price & Stephen Nathan	December 10, 1989
Phil tries to teach the kids in Darryl's class about the streets in the neighborhood.				
10	"He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother, Sister"	Arlando Smith	Trish Soodik	December 17, 1989
Darryl lets Lisa direct a school play based on her contest-winning script.				
11	"Who'll Be My Role Model Now That My Role Model Is Gone?"	Tony Singletary	David Cohen & Roger S.H. Schulman	UNAIRED
12	"The Visitor"	Linda Day	David Cohen & Roger S.H. Schulman	UNAIRED
13	"The Mom Who Came to Dinner"	Linda Day	Marc Cherry & Jamie Wooten	UNAIRED

References [edit]

1. ^ Ensign, Tom (September 4, 1989). "Comedy goes to school in ABC's new 'Homeroom'". *Toledo Blade*. pp. P–2. Retrieved November 28, 2012.
2. ^ Brooks, Tim; Marsh, Earle F. (October 17, 2007). *The Complete Directory to Prime Time Network and Cable TV Shows, 1946-Present* (9 ed.). Ballantine Books. p. 630. ISBN 0-345-49773-2.
3. ^ DuBois, Stephanie (November 21, 1989). "'Homeroom' Star Sivad Trying to Be the Best He Can Be". *The Spokane Review*. p. 5. Retrieved November 28, 2012.
4. ^ a b "Keeping 'Homeroom' alive via 'African-American grapevine'". *The Modesto Bee*. November 2, 1989. p. E5. Retrieved November 28, 2012.
5. ^ Weaver, Maurice (November 20, 1989). "'Homeroom' actors try to save series". *Sun Journal*. p. 8. Retrieved November 28, 2012.
6. ^ "'Homeroom', 'Living Dolls' canceled by ABC". *Sun Journal*. December 6, 1989. p. 29. Retrieved November 28, 2012.

External links [edit]

- *Homeroom* at IMDb
- *Homeroom* at epguides.com

Categories: 1989 American television series debuts | 1989 American television series endings | 1980s American black sitcoms | 1980s American school television series | 1980s American sitcoms | 1980s American workplace comedy television series | American Broadcasting Company original programming | Elementary school television series | English-language television shows | Television series about educators | Television shows set in New York City | Television series by Warner Bros. Television Studios | Television series by Castle Rock Entertainment

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